

The UAV management system 1222 may be configured, for example, to communicate with the UAVs, tow control handles, user devices, etc. In various implementations, the general activities of UAVs, including those related to towing users, may be recorded, monitored, coordinated, and/or partially or otherwise controlled by the UAV management system 1222. For example, the UAVs and/or the UAV management system 1222 may monitor and/or determine travel paths for flying to and from locations and users and/or for towing users. In various implementations, the UAV management system 1222 may send instructions, needed information (e.g., regarding users, travel paths, etc.), and/or otherwise partially or completely control the UAVs for travelling to and from the users, flying along travel paths, towing the users, etc. As an example, information and/or instructions may be transmitted to a UAV that indicates a travel path for flying to and/or from a user, and/or for towing a user, etc. As noted above, the various devices may also communicatively couple to each other (e.g., over the network, through direct wireless or wired links, etc.) In various implementations, such communications may be utilized for various purposes. For example, the UAVs, tow control handles and/or user devices may communicate with each other and/or a central management system for avoiding collisions between the UAVs, users and/or tow lines. In various implementations, a network of UAVs may communicate and/or coordinate activities for performing various functions. For example, a virtual ski lift may be created wherein a limited number of UAVs may be used for providing towing services for a large number of users. In such a configuration, if more users move to a particular area (e.g., a particular ski slope), additional UAVs may be summoned and/or otherwise instructed to travel to the particular area to help meet the current demand.

In various implementations, the UAV management system 1222 and/or other remote computing resources may also receive tracking data (e.g., GPS) regarding the coordinates of the UAVs. The GPS data may be utilized for various purposes, such as answering location status requests, sending notifications regarding the current locations of the UAVs, etc. For example, a user may request that a notification be sent when a UAV that has been summoned for a towing process is approaching. As another example, notifications may be sent to UAVs when they are approaching the location of a user who is to be towed, etc. Notifications may also be sent from UAVs to remote computing resources and/or the UAV management system 1222 regarding various events (e.g., when a UAV is approaching a user's location, when a UAV has begun towing a user, when a UAV has completed towing a user, etc.)

The server system 1200, in one implementation, is a distributed environment utilizing several computer systems and components that are interconnected via communication links, using one or more computer networks or direct connections. However, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that such a system could operate equally well in a system having fewer or a greater number of components than are illustrated in FIG. 12. Thus, the depiction in FIG. 12 should be taken as being illustrative in nature and not limiting to the scope of the disclosure.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that in some implementations the functionality provided by the processes and systems discussed above may be provided in alternative ways, such as being split among more software modules or routines or consolidated into fewer modules or routines. Similarly, in some implementations, illustrated processes and systems may provide more or less functionality than is

described, such as when other illustrated processes instead lack or include such functionality respectively, or when the amount of functionality that is provided is altered. In addition, while various operations may be illustrated as being performed in a particular manner (e.g., in serial or in parallel) and/or in a particular order, those skilled in the art will appreciate that in other implementations the operations may be performed in other orders and in other manners. Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that the data structures discussed above may be structured in different manners, such as by having a single data structure split into multiple data structures or by having multiple data structures consolidated into a single data structure. Similarly, in some implementations, illustrated data structures may store more or less information than is described, such as when other illustrated data structures instead lack or include such information respectively, or when the amount or types of information that is stored is altered. The various methods and systems as illustrated in the figures and described herein represent example implementations. The methods and systems may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof in other implementations. Similarly, the order of any method may be changed and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc., in other implementations.

From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that, although specific implementations have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the appended claims and the elements recited therein. In addition, while certain aspects are presented below in certain claim forms, the inventors contemplate the various aspects in any available claim form. For example, while only some aspects may currently be recited as being embodied in a computer readable storage medium, other aspects may likewise be so embodied. Various modifications and changes may be made as would be obvious to a person skilled in the art having the benefit of this disclosure. It is intended to embrace all such modifications and changes and, accordingly, the above description is to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense.

What is claimed is:

1. A towing system comprising:

an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) comprising a propulsion system that is configured to fly the UAV;

a tow control handle that is coupled by a tow line to the UAV, the tow control handle comprising:

a handle control system; and

at least one control element that is configured to provide a control signal that is utilized to control at least one of a direction or a speed of the UAV; and

a user device comprising:

a device control system; and

a user interface comprising:

a summoning control element that is configured to be actuated by a user, wherein the device control system is configured to respond to the actuation of the summoning control element by wirelessly transmitting a summoning instruction to summon the UAV to the user's location to enable the user to engage the tow control handle and be towed by the UAV; and

a departure control element that is configured to be actuated by the user after the user has released the tow control handle, wherein the device control system is configured to respond to the actuation of the departure control element by wirelessly trans-